

THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE  
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Oriente—In the new Post Office Building  
Merchant Street, Honolulu, H. I.

The Old Canoe,

[Long before the war, the appended single, but  
charming verse appeared in a short-lived paper at  
Little Rock, Ark., without signature or address.]

Where the rocks are grey and the shore is steep,  
And the waves break low and deep;

When the rugged pines, in the lonely pine,  
Lies gloomy over the rocky tide;

Where the reefs and rocks are long and rank,  
And the winds blow hard and strong;

Where the shadow is cast by the white day through,  
There lies an old canoeing boat's home;

The ancient paddle is still dry-dropped,  
Like a sea bird's wing that the storm has lopped,

And creased on the sailing, one after one,

Like the lined hands when the work is done;

While lonely rock and bark between,

The ocean stretches like a weary scene,

And the old man, with his head "soothed,"

Beats down on the ribs of the old canoe.

The stern half rock in the lonely wave,

Stands lonely way in the living grave,

And the green trees creeps up its dull slope,

Meeting the meeting waves;

On the left a lone tree stands alone,

With many a branch of blossoms,

Springs up over the ribs of the old canoe.

The blossoming waves are dead and still—

No light comes from the dead, the dead at will,

And death is not an option;

The boundless length of the rocky chain,

Lies every record of the hand of time,

That men and met at the remote skies,

And the stars are almost at each turn now,

By the dropping how of the old canoe.

Oh, many a time, with a wondrous load,

I have loaded it away from the public strand,

And packed it down where the stream runs past;

Where the white sun and the skies are thick,

And laughed as I looked over the rocking sea;

And loaded below in the broken sea,

To see that the seas and hours were two,

That were marked out from the old canoe.

But now, I leave off the trembling sea,

And look back on the wavy sea,

The last that I see there a greater grave,

And the laugh that there's a sober line,

And the hand that lead to the light ship, wings,

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